

Appl. # 10/651,059
Amdt.dated June 27 2005
Reply to Office action of April 26, 2005

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

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Claim 18 (new): A dental matrix band for restoring a tooth with restorative material, the dental matrix band comprising:

- (a) a boomerang-shaped body to wrap completely around a tooth; and
- (b) intact uninterrupted extrusion holes or apertures within said body to specifically align with the prepared inter-proximal surface or surfaces of a tooth.

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Claim 19 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 18 wherein said extrusion aperture is continuous, uninterrupted, possesses one or more notches in its periphery, and is enveloped by the expanse of said boomerang-shaped body.

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Claim 20 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 18 where said notches are located medially in a superior-inferior position on the periphery of said extrusion aperture.

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Claim 21 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 18 wherein said boomerang-shaped body possesses a contiguous appendage directly superior to said extrusion aperture.

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Claim 22 (new): A dental matrix band comprising a boomerang shape body of metal with a notched extrusion aperture located to specifically align with the inter-proximal surface of a prepared tooth.

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Claim 23 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 22 wherein said boomerang shaped body possesses a contiguous appendage directly superior to said notched extrusion aperture to serve as an orientation sighting guide.

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Claim 24 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 22 wherein said contiguous appendage serves as an initiation point for band separation.

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Claim 25 (new): The dental matrix band of claim 22 wherein said aperture containing said notches allows for band separation upon severance initiation of said contiguous appendage.

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Claim 25 (new): A method of achieving positive inter-proximal contact of a filled tooth to contact its abutting neighbor comprising:

- (a) a flat boomerang-shaped body of material possessing an uninterrupted extrusion aperture that has a superiorly positioned supportive appendage contiguous to said boomerang-shaped body and a separation notch or notches in medial alignment with said aperture and said supportive appendage.
- (b) providing a decayed tooth and prepping said decayed tooth with an appropriate instrument.
- (c) attaching said boomerang-shaped body to a retainer and place circumferentially around said decayed prepared tooth,
- (d) said aperture is positioned to directly oppose an inter-proximal area of a tooth adjacent to said decayed prepped tooth,
- (e) a restorative material is introduced within said prepped decayed tooth and compacted with a condensing instrument with said restorative material passing through said extrusion aperture and contacting said adjacent abutting tooth.

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Claim 26: (new): A method for removing a matrix band placed circumferentially around a tooth comprising:

- a) providing a body of material possessing one or more notches within its aperture to allow for band separation upon application of a force.
- (b) attaching said body to a retaining device and placing the body circumferentially around a tooth with one or more prepared inter-proximal surfaces.
- (c) applying an initiating separation cut to the superior aspect of said semi-circular appendage.
- (d) providing a constrictive force to effect a lateral separation of said body through said at least one aperture.
- (e) removing said separated non-disjoined flexible body from said restored tooth.